

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



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Date Issued: 2/18/18  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT  
COOK INLET AREA PACIFIC COD STATE-WATERS SEASON  
CLOSES TO POT VESSELS GREATER THAN 58 FEET IN LENGTH  
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-H-05-18**

The Cook Inlet Area state-waters Pacific cod season will **close to vessels greater than 58 feet in length and fishing with pot gear effective 11:59 p.m. February 18**. The state-waters seasons for vessels less than or equal to 58 feet in length and fishing with pot gear, and for vessels using jig gear, will remain open until closed by emergency order.

The Cook Inlet Area state-waters Pacific cod season opened to pot gear at 12:00 noon, February 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 671,141 lb. The GHL has 85% or 570,470 lb allocated to vessels using pot gear and 15% or 100,671 lb allocated to vessels using jig gear. The Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Management Plan (5 AAC 28.367) also restricts the Pacific cod state-waters season harvest by vessels greater than 58 feet in length and fishing with pot gear to 25% of the total GHL or 167,785 lb. Based upon current and projected harvest levels, the harvest cap for pot vessels greater than 58 feet in length will be achieved. If there is GHL remaining after September 1, it may become available to all legal gear, with no vessel size restrictions, during a state-waters season.

Fishermen are reminded that all pots must be unbaited and doors open at the time of the closure. Pots must be removed from the water no later than five days following the closure. Fish must be landed within 24-hours following the closure.

**-end-**